

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02511 041543Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /035 W  
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R 011821Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9642

USINFO WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR-ECAP

USNMR SHAPE

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS MADRID 2511

PASS IEU

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE

USIA/FOR IOP/F MILLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, NU, SP

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA ARTICLE

1. APRIL 4 -10 ISSUE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE CAMBIO 16  
(LEFT CENTER) PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH PRIEST POET

ERNESTO CARDENAL:

2. "NICARAGUA IS A SMALL VIETNAM, BUT SMALL ONLY  
IN THE DIMENSIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND NOT IN THE AMOUNT  
OF REPRESSION LET LOOSE AGAINST THE PEOPLE. I HAVE  
AUTHENTIC TESTIMONY OF ATRICITIES LIKE THE BEHEADING  
OF AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CHILD OR THE MACHINE-GUNNING  
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OF A SIX-MONTH-OLD BABY."...ERNESTO CARDINAL...  
DENOUNCED IN THESE WORDS A FEW DAYS AGO IN MEXICO  
THE 'EXTERMINATION OPERATION' LAUNCHED IN HIS COUNTRY  
BY THE DICTATOR ANASTASIO TACHITO SOMOZA. CARDINAL  
WAS RETURNING FROM THE U.S. WHERE HE HAD MET WITH  
CONGRESS TO GIVE TESTIMONY ABOUT THE MASSACRES IN  
NICARAGUA."

3. "'WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT A WAR BETWEEN SOLDIERS, BUT ABOUT A PLAN OF POPULATION EXTERMINATION TO FINISH WITH THE PEASANTS AND THE POOR, ACCUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLLABORATING WITH THE SANDINISTAS...NAPALM IS BEING USED TO BOMBARD CIVILIANS, USING AMERICAN HELICOPTERS BASED IN PANAMA.'

4. "'AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN 'OPERATION EXTERMINATION' ...IS AMPLY PROVEN' IN CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, THE PRIEST PRESENTED DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THE SITES IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE THE MILITARY OF SOMOZA ARE TRAINED, AND GAVE A LIST OF NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS, KNOWN EXPERTS IN TORTURE WHO HAD RECEIVED COURSES IN THE U.S. AND IN THE AMERICAN ZONE OF THE PANAMA CANAL. AMONG THESE FIGURES IS THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY OF NICARAGUA, SAMUEL JENNINGS, WHO TOOK COMMANDO AND GENERAL STAFF COURSES IN PANAMA IN 1957 AND IN COUNTERINSURGENCY AT THE INTERAMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE IN THE U.S.

5. "'TOGETHER WITH HIM WORKS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SPECIALISTS IN TORTURE, THE GERMAN GUNTER WAGNER, A MILITANT NAZI IN HIS YOUTH AND LATER AN AID EMPLOYEE, WHO IS UNDER THE DIRECTORS OF SOMOZA.'

6. "IN THE LIST OF DOCUMENTED ACCUSATIONS...IS ONE THAT SOMOZA TRIES TO CONTROL THE SITUATION IN SEVERAL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. CARDINAL DENOUNCED UNCLASSIFIED

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NICARAGUAN INTERVENTION IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR WHICH ARE PRACTICALLY UNDER HIS CONTROL, OF COURSE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PENTAGON...THE GOVERNMENT OF MANAGUA...HAS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS OF PANAMA, BECAUSE OF THE PROGRESSIVE REFORMS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS MADE. AND AT THE SAME TIME, AN INVASION OF THE BRITISH COLONY OF BELIZE IS BEING PREPARED. A PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT EXISTS THERE, ALTHOUGH ITS PREMIER, GEORGE PRICE, IS A FERVENT CATHOLIC. ON SUNDAYS HE RETIRES TO EXAMINE HIS CONSCIENCE TO SEE IF HE HAS FAILED IN ANYTHING FOR HIS PEOPLE. SOMOZA, WITH THE PENTAGON BEHIND HIM, WANTS TO TAKE BELIZE AS SOON AS THE BRITISH TROOPS LEAVE.'

7. "THE ATTITUDE...OF JIMMY CARTER ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMS TO HAVE FRIGHTENED THE DICTATOR A BIT. LAST FEBRUARY, HE TRIED TO MEET WITH THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF, BUT TWO DEMOCRATIC SENATORS, FRIENDS OF SOMOZA, JOHN

MURPHY AND LARRY MACDONALD, WENT TO MANAGUA TO TELL HIM TO WAIT FOR A BETTER OCCASION. 'THESE SENATORS ARE GANGSTERS...AND HAVE SO LITTLE PRESTIGE THAT THEIR COLLEAGUES CALL THEM NAZIS.' MURPHY SEEMS TO BE THE LINK BETWEEN THE NICARAGUAN LEADERS AND THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY..." EATON

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009